

Remarks/Arguments:

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the present amendments and following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 9-15 are pending; Claims 1-8 were previously canceled; Claim 9 is amended; and no claims are newly added or canceled herewith. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added by this amendment, and support may be found, for example, in Figure 3 of the present application.

Applicants thank Examiner Duong for the interview granted Applicants' representative on December 1, 2003. During the interview, Claims 9-15 were discussed with regard to Kubo et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,456,279, hereafter Kubo).

As discussed during the interview, Claim 9, as amended, recites a liquid crystal display that has a light unit having a frame member encasing the light source means and the optical guide plate. Through the claimed configuration it is unnecessary to provide optical guide plate pawls for positioning and fixing an optical guide plate 132, and generation of bright lines can be prevented. As a result, disadvantages in the appearance and optical characteristics, such as difficulty in viewing the liquid crystal panel 120, caused by the generation of bright lines may be avoided, and a liquid crystal display having high optical quality may be provided. Additionally, during assembly of the liquid crystal display, assembly of a portable telephone is made easier, as the front light unit 200a and the optical guide plate 132 are accurately positioned on the holder 112.¹

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 9, 10, and 12-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Kubo; and Claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Kubo in view of Lee et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,556,268, hereafter Lee).

¹ Specification, page 8, lines 21-32.

As discussed during the interview, Kubo relates to a liquid crystal display device with a touch panel. As illustrated in Figures 19 and 20, the liquid crystal display device of Kubo includes an upper case 18 and a lower case 19. However, the upper and lower cases of Kubo do not include a frame member encasing the light source means and the optical guide plate, as recited in Claim 9.

Accordingly, as Kubo fails to disclose or suggest the features recited in Claim 9, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 9-15 patentably distinguish over Kubo. It is therefore respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

With regard to the rejection of Claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Kubo in view of Lee, that rejection is also traversed. Claim 11 depends from Claim 9.

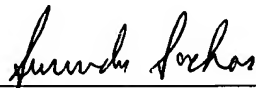
As noted above, Kubo fails to disclose or suggest the features of Claim 9. As Lee is not relied upon to provide the features identified as deficient in Kubo, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 9, and therefore Claim 11, patentably distinguish over the applied combination of Kubo and Lee. It is therefore respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that there is no basis in the teachings of either Kubo or Lee to support the applied combination. Certainly, the Office Action fails to cite to any specific teachings within either of these two references to support the applied combination. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted the applied combination of Kubo and Lee is based upon hindsight reconstruction, and is improper.

Consequently, in view of the foregoing discussion and present amendments, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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